

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CE

SUBJ: GSL SPOKESMAN'S COMMENT ON CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION

REF: A) COLOMBO 2249; B) COLOMBO 2269

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 13, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRIEFLY REVIEWED GSL REACTION TO CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION. AS VARIOUSLY REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, JAYAKODY PRAISED PRESIDENT NIXON'S INITIATIVES IN FOREIGN POLICY, SINGLING OUT AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM VIET-NAM CONFLECT, IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH USSR AND PRC, AND U.S. APPROACH TO ARAB WORLD. MRDD NIXON, HE SAID, HAD ALSO BEEN LIBERAL IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SRI LANKA; JAYAKODY ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAD SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING MORE AID FROM UNITED STATES THAN ANY OTHER PRIME MINISTER IN PREVIOUS 10 YEARS. JAYAKODY NOTED THAT GREETINGS AND EXPRESSION OF GOODWILL HAD BEEN RECIEVED FROM NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD CONVEYED ASSURANCES TO GSL OF CONINUED POLICY OF FREINDSHIP TOWARD SRI LANKA.

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2. COMMENT: JAYAKODY TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR

AUGUST 14 TO EXPLAIN THAT ONE PAPER'S REFERENCE
TO GSL "CONCERN" OVER RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT
NIXON WAS NOT ACCURATE CITATION OF WHAT HE,
JAYAKODY, HAD ACTUALLY SAID. NONETHELESS, IT IS
OUR GUESS THAT SUCH DISQUIRE DID PREVAIL FOR A
TIME BUT THAT IT IS BEING ALLAYED BY REITERATION
IN WASHINGTON AND IN COLOMBO OF CONTINUITY IN U.S.
FOREIGN POLICY. WE INTEND TO KEEP
STRESSING THIS POINT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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